

into action on the night of the 22nd to rescue a hiker who was stranded on a rocky ledge above Mary Jane Falls on Mount Charleston. Once he reached the stranded hiker via helicopter, Officer Vanbuskirk secured the man and himself with harnesses to be lifted back into the helicopter. It was at some point during the lift that Officer Vanbuskirk became detached from the harness and fell to the ground below.

The hiker survived. He was saved by the heroic actions of Officer Vanbuskirk.

David's career with the department was marked by many accomplishments, but the notable achievements he would want us to remember cannot be hung on a wall or pinned on a uniform. These achievements can be summed up this way: David Vanbuskirk answered the call when people needed him. This is a man who, when the call came out to rescue a hiker stranded high on Mount Charleston, did not think of himself or of the danger he would be putting himself in. Like so many times before, he climbed into the helicopter and thought only of the person to be rescued, of the life to be saved.

Of course, answering calls like this are what David and the rest of the Las Vegas Search and Rescue team do. The work our law enforcement and search and rescue officers do around the valley and around our Nation to keep our communities safe is dangerous work, and this tragedy is a somber reminder that they put their lives on the line every time they are on duty, every time they answer that call.

Dave's personal courage and selfless dedication to his work and the community he served epitomized the very core of those in the public safety professions—of those who run towards the sound of gunfire or run into a burning building while everybody else is running away.

I remember when Dave first joined the unit. He was ambitious, motivated, professional—and he was always smiling. And he was smart—one of the brightest with whom I've ever had the opportunity to serve. He was always looking to learn more about search and rescue techniques and about emergency medical care.

We spent long hours together on SWAT missions, sitting in the cab of our rescue vehicle or on the rock during training exercises, and he was always asking questions. He was the proverbial sponge for knowledge. It was always, "Hey, Doc. What about 'this' or 'that'?" or "Hey, Doc. What 'if'?" He always put others first, and nowhere is that more evident than in how he spent his final hours—in the dark of night, with the search and rescue team, finding someone who needed help.

Madam Speaker, I think we use the word "hero" so often to describe athletes or celebrities or public figures that we sometimes forget what a real hero looks like. One only needs to look to my left. David Vanbuskirk was a

hero, and that was evident by those who eulogized him this past Monday in the outpouring of public support, by the thousands who lined the funeral procession route and attended his services. He touched many hearts in his short time on this Earth, and stories about how he helped so many brought tears to the eyes of everyone who filled the church, even to the toughest cops in attendance.

While the Las Vegas search and rescue community, the metro police family, his friends, family members, wife, and all who knew him mourn his loss, we also celebrate Officer David Vanbuskirk's 13-year career of answering the call to serve the residents of Clark County. He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Adrianna; by his mother, Pat; by his sister, Jennifer; and her two sons, Reid and Griffin.

I extend my most heartfelt condolences to Adrianna and the Vanbuskirk family, and I pray they will be strengthened by friends and family during this difficult time.

Police Officer David Vanbuskirk, P No. 6482. Secure. Final.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 29 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Imam Talib Shareef, Masjid Muhammad, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, the Merciful, the Wise, the Most High, the Possessor of Greatness, we stand and humbly beseech Your Divine Providence upon this House of Representatives.

Grant them clear vision and legislative acumen as they navigate the waters of our national issues. Grant them insight and wisdom, and bless them to follow the logic to its logical conclusion. Grant them the quality of excellence in planning both short and long term that focuses on the right thing, the right way, at the right time.

As we pledge "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" in acknowledging You, God, who created us all and cares about us all equally, bless this House to be reflective of *E pluribus unum*—the many diverse, wonderful, beautiful expressions of human life that have contributed to the beauty and strength of America; and bless them to have always the right perception of our Nation that,

first of all, this Nation is a gift from You, and under You, God, we are responsible for how we treat everything. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WITTMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING IMAM TALIB SHAREEF

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor, privilege, and pleasure to introduce Imam Talib Shareef today, who is the resident imam—which is simply a word that means "leader"—of Masjid Muhammad, which is a Washington, D.C., mosque with a 75-year history.

Imam Talib Shareef is a 30-year veteran of the United States Air Force, and he served our country nobly in uniform for many years. He also holds a master's in business administration from the American InterContinental University and a diploma in the area of Arabic studies and language from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. I might also add that the imam is a leader in the interfaith movement and regularly works with faith leaders of all faiths, building understanding, cohesion, and unity amongst all people and all Americans.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### REMEMBERING LINDY BOGGS

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former Member of the House and a grand lady from Louisiana, Ms. Lindy Boggs.

She was a pioneer and a trailblazer for the State of Louisiana. She served